

Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

Ephrata Office County Courthouse
PO Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823
509-754-6060

Moses Lake Office
1038 West Ivy Suite 1, Moses Lake WA 98837
509-766-7960



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 06/11/08 TO: Emergency Rooms in Grant County Walk-in Clinics in Grant County Healthcare Provider Offices in Grant County EMS Providers in Grant County Healthcare Emergencies Alliance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Alexander Brzezny, MD, MPH, Grant County Health Officer Peggy Grigg, RN, BSN, Director of Personal Health Services/Administrator
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- GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT -
New Measles Case Extends Outbreak Surveillance Period

The Grant County Health District has received a report of the 19th case in the current measles outbreak; confirmation has been obtained through the Washington State Public Health Laboratory. Public exposure sites have been identified at:

1. Moses Lake Clinic (Wenatchee Valley Clinic) – 840 E. Hill Ave, Moses Lake, on May 31, 8:30-11:30 am;
2. Moses Lake Wal-Mart, 1005 N. Stratford Road, Moses Lake, on the following dates:
 - Tuesday, May 27, 12 noon-9 pm, and
 - Wednesday, May 28, noon-6:30 pm have been identified as public exposure sites.

This alert is to advise healthcare providers and EMS providers of measles surveillance and measles control precautions. The most recent case and related exposures necessitate the extension of the surveillance period through July 12, 2008. This will be extended in the event of any more cases in the future.

Public health has worked with the Moses Lake Clinic to identify exposed individuals in order to document and update, when appropriate, their immunity status. The Health District is offering extended clinic hours for those who have been exposed and need to be vaccinated. Samaritan Healthcare at this time is offering measles titers for individuals on a cash or check basis for \$15, no doctor's order required (Monday through Friday, 6 am to 6 pm). An estimated 80 contacts have been identified and contacted.

RASH/MEASLES FACILITY ENTRANCE SIGNAGE

We request you keep the signage up requesting that individuals with rash or fever provide notification before entering waiting areas. Some facilities have found it helpful to have masks available at their entrances.

WHEN TESTING A PATIENT FOR MEASLES

Please notify Grant County Health District if you choose to test a patient for measles. This will assist us in expediting the investigation and assure a rapid response to help control the spread of the disease. The Health District can facilitate the testing of specimens at the Washington State Department of Health laboratory in case of clinical illness:

- **Serology** (at least 1 cc of serum) – IgM (IgG will also be performed) – a negative IgM result obtained before 72 hours of rash does not rule out measles and may necessitate the requirement of an additional specimen;
- **Urine for Viral Isolation** (at least 50 ml of clean voided urine in a sterile container);
- **Nasopharangeal Specimen for Viral Isolation:** Nasal wash is preferred (after placing 3-5 ml saline in the nose, aspirate as much material as possible and add to a centrifuge tube containing viral transport medium). If a nasal wash cannot be performed collect a nasopharyngeal or throat swab (use dacron or rayon swab and place it in 2-3 ml of viral transport medium).

EXPOSURES

Please notify the Health District immediately in the event of an exposure within your facility: 509-754-6060, or after hours, 509-398-2083. **Measles exposure applies to all individuals within one airspace for a full 2 hours after an infectious patient has been present.** Only those with 2 MMR's or other evidence of immunity (prior disease or positive titer) are considered to be immune. Individuals who have not received any MMR doses are at highest risk. Measles is infectious from 4-5 days before the onset of rash through 4 days after the rash onset date.

In the event of exposure, vaccination with MMR within 72 hours is appropriate prophylaxis, for susceptible individuals without contraindications. Susceptible pregnant women, infants and immunosuppressed individuals should be considered for IG administration within 6 days of exposure. The Health District advises that *all* susceptible pregnant women (those without proof of 2 MMR's or other immunity documented) should be tested for immunity (titer - IgG). Refer to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/guidelines/pdf/measles.pdf>.

CLINICAL CRITERIA FOR MEASLES

- a generalized rash lasting ≥ 3 days AND
- a temperature $\geq 101.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\geq 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$), AND
- one or more of these: cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis

AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS

Airborne precautions must continue when attending to patients who present with a rash illness. The patient **MUST** wear a mask (usually a surgical mask) **BEFORE** they enter the facility. The Grant County Health District will

continue to advise the public to FIRST CALL their physician's office before coming to the clinic, and to provide notice regarding any rash or fever.

VACCINATION

Healthcare providers should consider purchasing MMR vaccine for use in adults if they do not have it available at this time. State-provided vaccines (call the Health District at 766-7960 for more information) are available for the vaccination of all children from age 12 months up to the 19th birthday, and students born in or after 1957 who are entering college. State vaccines may be used for either first or second doses. Please consider vaccinating at age 12 months, during this outbreak; a second dose can be administered at any time after the first as long as 28 days have passed since the first or since the administration of another live vaccine. Adults born before 1957 are generally considered immune, unless they are healthcare workers or otherwise employed or volunteering in high risk settings.